



Missouri Department of Higher Education

Building Missouri's future...by degrees

May 25, 2011

Dr. John Jasinski, President  
Northwest Missouri State University  
800 University Drive  
Maryville, MO 64468

Dear President Jasinski:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that your request for a waiver of the penalty applicable to your increase in tuition and required fees is approved. This action is required because Northwest Missouri State University's increase of 1.8% for FY12 will exceed the amount allowed under the provisions of the Higher Education Student Funding Act (HEFSA).

I arrived at this decision by evaluating the information provided in your May 20th waiver request within the context of the criteria previously provided by the Missouri Department of Higher Education. I also considered separate recommendations of department staff.

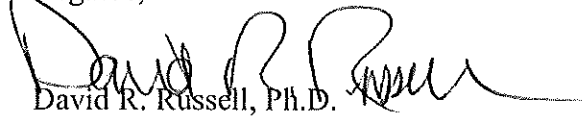
The overall justification given in support of the university's penalty waiver request was strong; however, certain arguments were particularly persuasive:

- When measured over the past three years, the total increase is only .2% above the CPI change for that same period (4.5% versus 4.3%). Although the FY 12 appropriation bill has not yet been signed, the decrease in state appropriations over that same period will be at least 10.9%.
- The tuition increase will only generate \$1.7 million in additional revenue whereas mandatory costs for the FY 12 budget are estimated to increase by nearly \$2.0 million.
- Even though the increased revenue will not cover the estimated increase in mandatory costs, Northwest has committed to setting aside approximately one-third of the tuition increase for additional financial assistance in the form of scholarships and fee waivers.
- Over the past two years, Northwest has implemented \$3.77 million in cost-saving measures.

Northwest's tuition decision is a positive response to the efforts made by Governor Nixon and the General Assembly to minimize the FY12 budget reduction for universities. It also responds increases to a minimum and to take other efforts to reduce costs to students. We owe it to

Missouri's students and their families to keep universities affordable and accessible. I encourage you to continue to control tuition by aggressively seeking every possible opportunity to reduce operating costs and make the university as efficient as possible.

Regards,

  
David R. Russell, Ph.D.  
Commissioner of Higher Education

cc: Stacy Carrick, Vice President of Finance